



Wampatuck Hall



Hitchcock House



Grange Hall



172 Main Street



Fern Hill Cemetery



South Hanson railroad depot

SIGNIFICANT SITES

Survey of Hanson historical places complete

By Evan J. Albright
The Patriot Ledger

HANSON — Of the thousands of properties listed in the Massachusetts Registry of Historic Places, not one is in Hanson.

But that is expected to change now that the historic commission has released a much-anticipated community survey of historical properties.

The survey lists 160 neighborhoods, houses, buildings and other properties that have historic significance.

For each location, the commission and its experts have written a description detailing its history and significant architectural features. Each listing contains maps and photographs of the property as it appears today.

The project began in 1994, when town meet-

ing gave the commission \$5,000 to conduct the survey. The commission obtained a matching grant from the U.S. Interior Department.

Commission members said most of the \$10,000 was used to hire two experts in historical architecture, Claire Dempsey and Laura Driemeyer, to catalog Hanson's architectural treasures.

The two women, with historic commission help, identified more than 160 properties that exemplify various historic periods in Hanson, spanning Colonial times to World War II.

The results of their research have been compiled in a report, which the historic commission presented to selectmen last night.

Volunteers did much of the legwork, contributing more than 750 hours to review tax and assessing records for each property.

Dempsey and Driemeyer relied heavily on

local historians to fill in historical gaps, along with town reports and other records.

The researchers recommended that 12 districts and properties be submitted for the National Register of Historic Places, which automatically puts them on the state registry. They are:

- United Cape Cod Cranberry Co. central packing house area.
- North Hanson, one of the oldest neighborhoods in town.
- Cushing House/Alms House at 784 Indian Head St., a Federal-style home, which may have been built as early as 1763.
- Hanson Town Hall.
- Wampatuck Hall.
- Houses at 510 Brook St., 89 East Washington St., 541 High St., 305 King St., 149 Maquan St., 517 West Washington St. and 316 West Washington St.